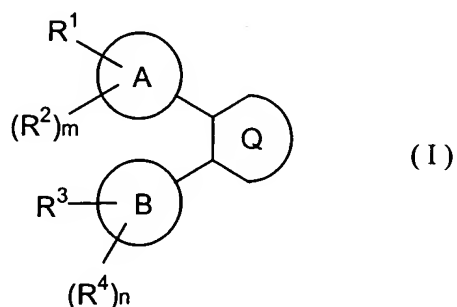


AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

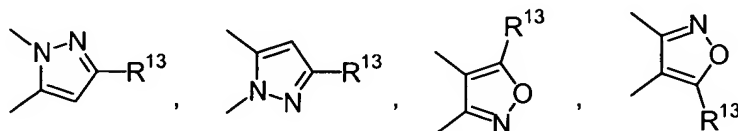
1. (Original) A large conductance calcium-activated K channel opener comprising a compound of the formula (I):



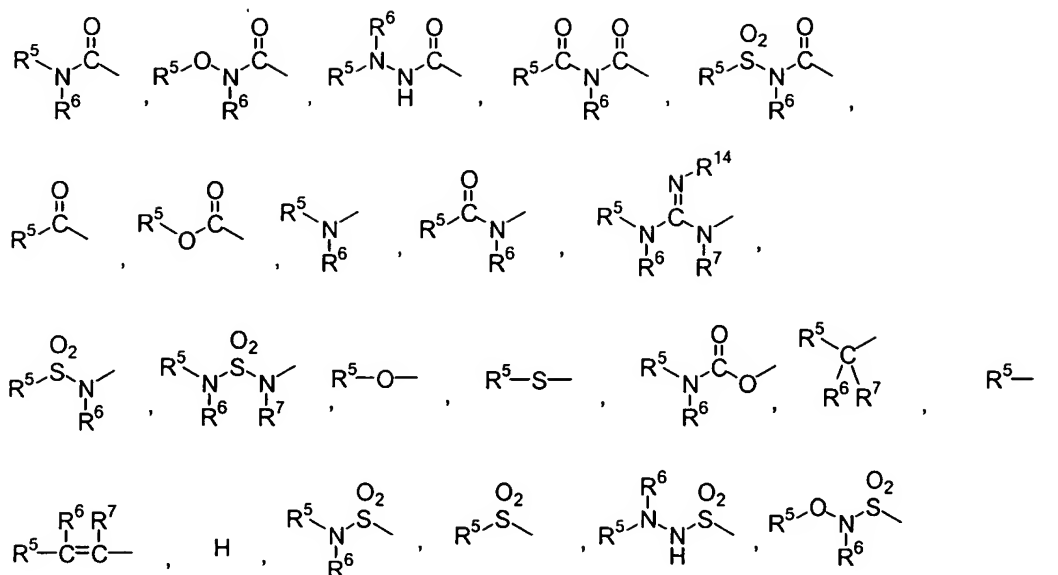
wherein Ring A is benzene or a heterocyclic ring;

Ring B is benzene, a heterocyclic ring, a cycloalkane or a cycloalkene;

Ring Q is a group selected from the following formulae:



R^1 and R^3 may be the same or different from each other, and each is a group selected from the following formulae:



R⁵ and R⁶ may be the same or different from each other, and each is (1) hydrogen, (2) an optionally substituted alkyl, (3) an optionally substituted cycloalkyl which may be fused with an aryl, (4) an optionally substituted aryl, (5) an optionally substituted heterocyclic group, or (6) an alkoxycarbonyl, or (7) R⁵ and R⁶ may be combined to form an optionally substituted heterocyclic ring in combination with atom(s) to which they are bonded;

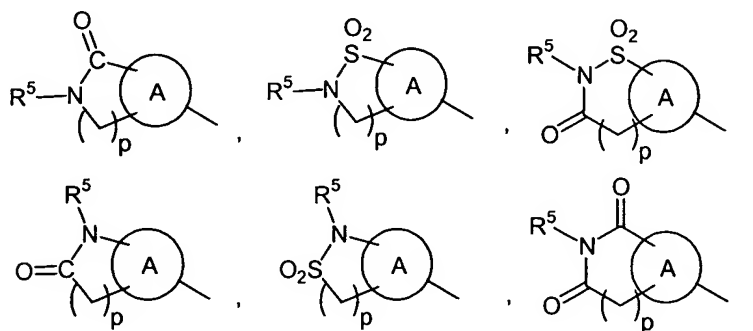
R⁷ is (1) hydrogen, (2) an optionally substituted alkyl, (3) an optionally substituted cycloalkyl which may be fused with an aryl, (4) an optionally substituted aryl, or (5) an alkoxycarbonyl;

R¹⁴ is hydrogen, an alkoxy, hydroxyl, cyano or an optionally substituted alkyl;

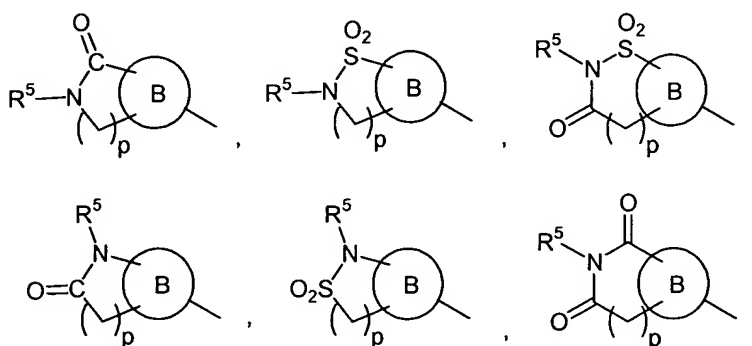
m and n may be the same or different from each other, and each is 0, 1 or 2;

R² and R⁴ may be the same or different from each other, and each is oxo, cyano, nitro, hydroxyl, an alkoxy, a halogen, carboxy, an alkoxycarbonyl, an optionally substituted carbamoyl, an optionally substituted amino or an optionally substituted alkyl; provided

that when m is 2, two R^2 may be the same or different from each other, and when n is 2, two R^4 may be the same or different from each other;
 or R^1 and R^2 may be combined to form a group selected from the following formulae with Ring A;



or R^3 and R^4 may be combined to form a group selected from the following formulae with Ring B;

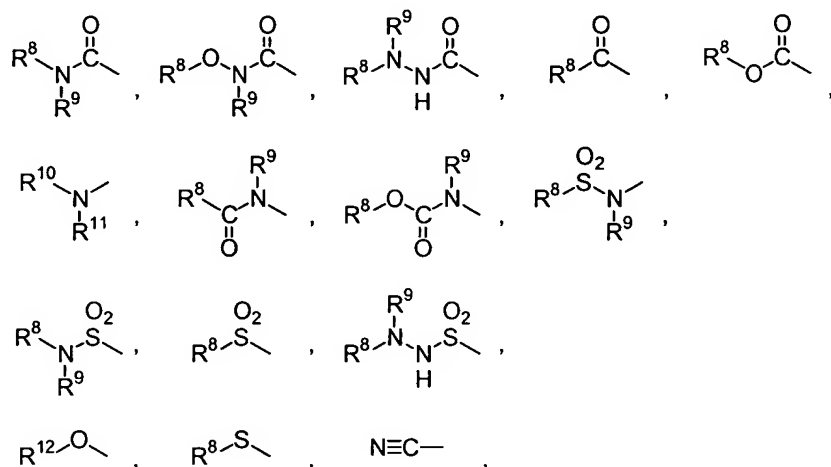


p is an integer of 1 to 3; and

R^{13} is (1) an optionally substituted alkyl, (2) cyano, (3) hydrogen, (4) a halogen, (5) an optionally substituted amino, (6) an alkenyl, (7) an optionally substituted carbamoyl, (8) an alkoxycarbonyl, (9) carboxy, (10) a heterocyclic group, (11) hydroxyl or (12) an alkoxy,

or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof as an active ingredient.

2. (Original) The large conductance calcium-activated K channel opener according to Claim 1, wherein the substituent(s) for the optionally substituted alkyl of R^5 , R^6 and R^7 are 1 to 7 independently selected halogen(s) and/or 1 to 3 groups selected from the following groups:



an optionally substituted heterocyclic group and an optionally substituted aryl,

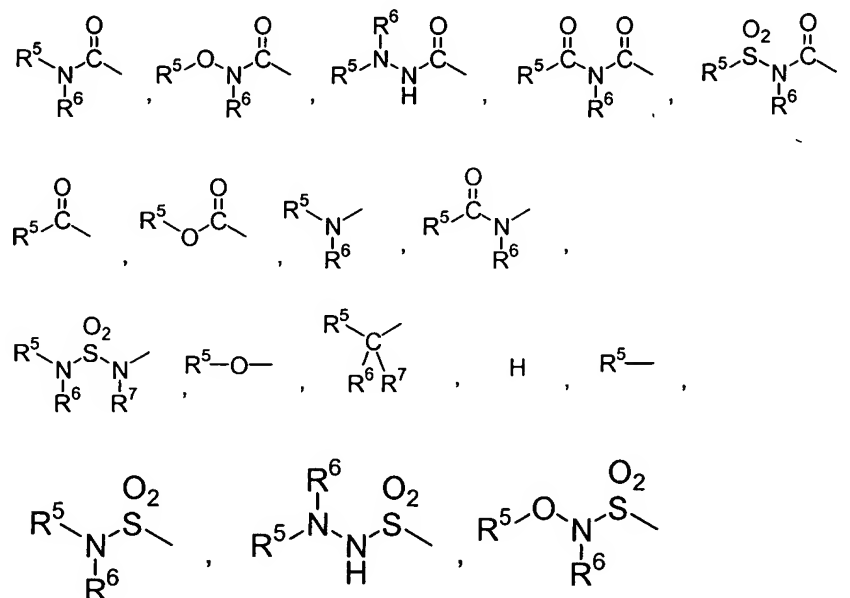
wherein R^8 and R^9 may be the same or different from each other, and each is (1) hydrogen, (2) an alkyl which may be substituted by an optionally substituted aryl or by an optionally substituted heterocyclic group, (3) a hydroxyalkyl, (4) an alkoxy-alkyl, (5) an alkoxycarbonyl, (6) an optionally substituted heterocyclic group or (7) an optionally substituted aryl, or (8) R^8 and R^9 may be combined to form an optionally substituted heterocyclic ring in combination with atom(s) to which they are bonded; R^{10} and R^{11} may be the same or different from each other, and each is (1) hydrogen, (2) an alkyl which may be substituted by an optionally substituted aryl or by an optionally substituted heterocyclic group, (3) a hydroxyalkyl, (4) an alkoxyalkyl, (5) an alkanoyl, (6) an alkylsulfonyl, (7) an alkoxycarbonyl or (8) an optionally substituted heterocyclic group; R^{12} is (1) hydrogen, (2) an alkyl which may be substituted by an optionally

substituted aryl or by an optionally substituted heterocyclic group, (3) a hydroxyalkyl, (4) an alkoxyalkyl or (5) an optionally substituted heterocyclic group.

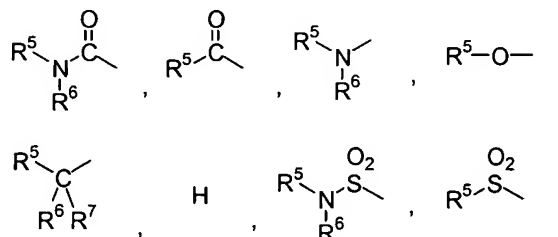
3. (Original) The large conductance calcium-activated K channel opener according to Claim 1, wherein

Ring B is benzene, a heterocyclic ring, a cycloalkane or a cycloalkene,

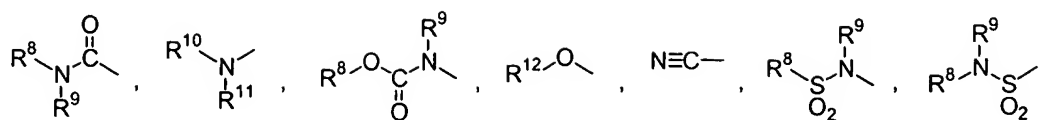
R¹ is a group selected from the following formulae:



R³ is a group selected from the following formulae:



R⁵ is (1) hydrogen, (2) an alkyl which may be substituted by 1 to 7 independently selected halogen(s) and/or by 1 to 3 groups selected from the following groups:



an optionally substituted heterocyclic group and an optionally substituted aryl,

(3) an optionally substituted cycloalkyl which may be fused with an aryl, (4) an optionally substituted aryl, or (5) an optionally substituted heterocyclic group;

R^6 is hydrogen, an alkyl or an alkoxycarbonyl, or R^5 and R^6 may be combined to form an optionally substituted heterocyclic ring in combination with atoms to which they are bonded;

R^7 is hydrogen, an alkyl or an alkoxycarbonyl;

R^8 and R^9 may be the same or different from each other, and each is (1) hydrogen, (2) an alkyl which may be substituted by an optionally substituted aryl or by an optionally substituted heterocyclic group, (3) a hydroxyalkyl, (4) an alkoxyalkyl, (5) an optionally substituted heterocyclic group, (6) an optionally substituted aryl, or (7) R^8 and R^9 may be combined to form an optionally substituted heterocyclic ring in combination with atom(s) to which they are bonded;

R^{10} and R^{11} may be the same or different from each other, and each is (1) hydrogen, (2) an alkyl which may be substituted by an optionally substituted aryl or by an optionally substituted heterocyclic group, (3) a hydroxyalkyl, (4) an alkoxyalkyl, (5) an alkanoyl, (6) an alkylsulfonyl, (7) an alkoxycarbonyl or (8) an optionally substituted heterocyclic group;

R^{12} is (1) hydrogen, (2) an alkyl which may be substituted by an optionally substituted aryl or by an optionally substituted heterocyclic group, (3) a hydroxyalkyl, (4) an alkoxyalkyl or (5) an optionally substituted heterocyclic group;

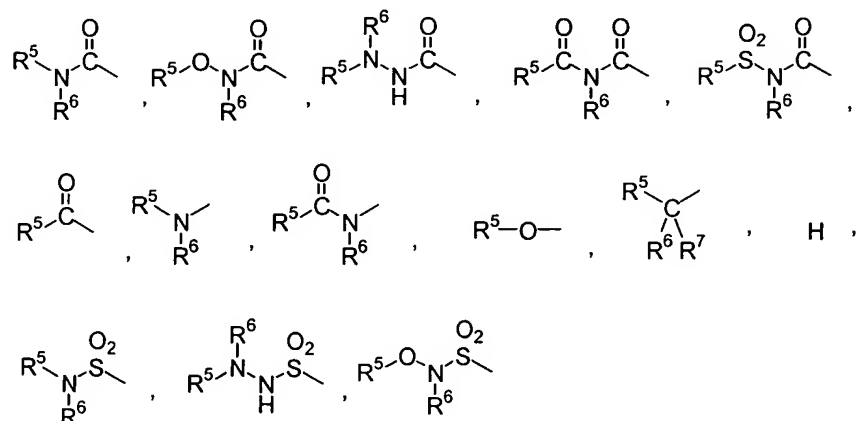
m and n may be the same or different from each other, and each is 0, 1 or 2; and

R^2 and R^4 may be the same or different from each other, and each is oxo, cyano, nitro, hydroxyl, an alkoxy, a halogen or an optionally substituted alkyl.

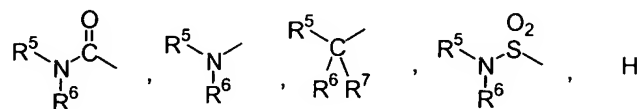
4. (Original) The large conductance calcium-activated K channel opener according to Claim 1, wherein

Ring B is (1) benzene or (2) a heterocyclic ring selected from thiophene, pyridine, pyrimidine, pyrazine, benzothiophene, 2,3-dihydroindole, 2,3-dihydrobenzofuran and 1,4-benzodioxane or (3) a cyclohexene;

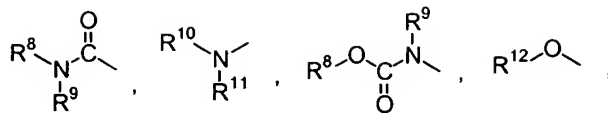
R^1 is a group selected from the following formulae:



R^3 is a group selected from the following formulae:



R^5 is (1) hydrogen, (2) an alkyl which may be substituted by 1 to 7 independently selected halogen(s) and/or by 1 or 2 groups selected from the following groups:



an optionally substituted heterocyclic group and an optionally substituted aryl,

(3) an optionally substituted cycloalkyl which may be fused with an aryl, (4) an optionally substituted aryl, or (5) an optionally substituted heterocyclic group;

R^6 is hydrogen or an alkyl, or R^5 and R^6 may be combined to form a heterocyclic ring which may be substituted by hydroxyalkyl, in combination with atom(s) to which they are bonded;

R^7 is hydrogen or an alkyl;

R^8 and R^9 may be the same or different from each other, and each is (1) hydrogen, (2) an alkyl which may be substituted by an optionally substituted aryl or by an optionally substituted heterocyclic group, (3) hydroxyalkyl or (4) an alkoxyalkyl;

R^{10} and R^{11} may be the same or different from each other, and each is (1) hydrogen, (2) an alkyl which may be substituted by an optionally substituted aryl or by an optionally substituted heterocyclic group, (3) a hydroxyalkyl, (4) an alkoxyalkyl or (5) an optionally substituted heterocyclic group;

R^{12} is (1) hydrogen, (2) an alkyl which may be substituted by an optionally substituted aryl or by an optionally substituted heterocyclic group, (3) a hydroxyalkyl, (4) an alkoxyalkyl or (5) an optionally substituted heterocyclic group;

m and n may be the same or different from each other, and each is 0, 1 or 2;

R^2 and R^4 may be the same or different from each other, and each is oxo, cyano, nitro, hydroxyl group, an alkoxy, a halogen or an alkyl which may be substituted by hydroxyl group; and

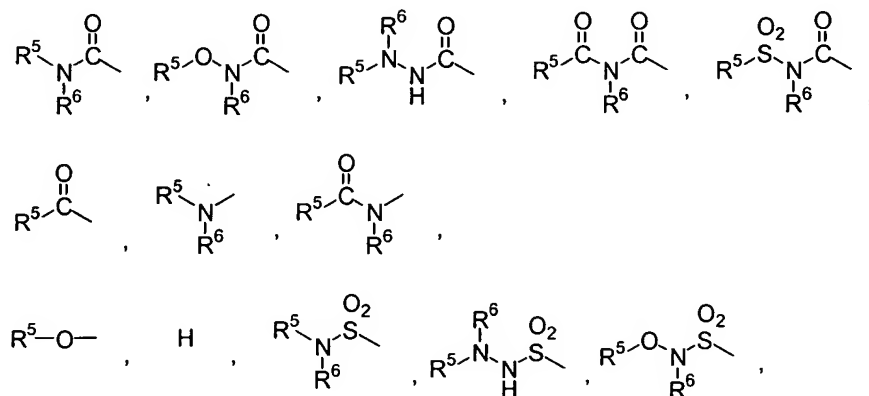
R^{13} is (1) hydrogen, (2) an alkyl which may be substituted by a group selected from a halogen, hydroxyl group, an optionally substituted alkoxy, cyano, carboxy, carbamoyl, an alkoxycarbonyl, an optionally substituted amino and an optionally substituted imino, (3) an alkenyl, or (4) a heterocyclic group.

5. (Original) The large conductance calcium-activated K channel opener according to Claim 1, wherein

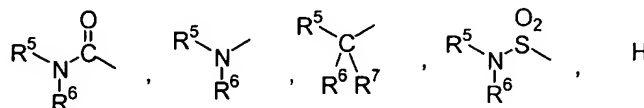
Ring A is benzene, thiophene, pyridine or pyrazole;

Ring B is (1) benzene, (2) a heterocyclic ring selected from thiophene, pyridine, pyrimidine, pyrazine, benzothiophene, 2,3-dihydroindole and 1,4-benzodioxane, or (3) a cyclohexene;

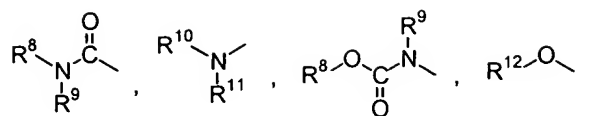
R^1 is a group selected from the following formulae:



R^3 is a group selected from the following formulae:



R^5 is (1) hydrogen, (2) an alkyl which may be substituted by 1 to 7 independently selected halogen(s) and/or by 1 or 2 groups selected from the following groups:



an optionally substituted heterocyclic group and an optionally substituted aryl,

(3) a cycloalkyl fused with an aryl which may be substituted by hydroxyl(s), or (4) a heterocyclic group;

R⁶ is hydrogen or an alkyl, or R⁵ and R⁶ may be combined to form a heterocyclic ring which may be substituted by hydroxyalkyl;

R⁷ is hydrogen or an alkyl;

R⁸, R⁹, R¹⁰ and R¹¹ may be the same or different from each other, and each is (1) hydrogen, (2) an alkyl which may be substituted by an optionally substituted aryl or by an optionally substituted heterocyclic group, (3) a hydroxyalkyl, (4) an alkoxyalkyl, (5) an optionally substituted heterocyclic group, or (6) an optionally substituted aryl;

R¹² is (1) hydrogen, (2) an alkyl which may be substituted by an optionally substituted aryl or by an optionally substituted heterocyclic group, (3) a hydroxyalkyl, (4) an alkoxyalkyl or (5) an optionally substituted heterocyclic group;

m and n may be the same or different from each other, and each is 0, 1 or 2;

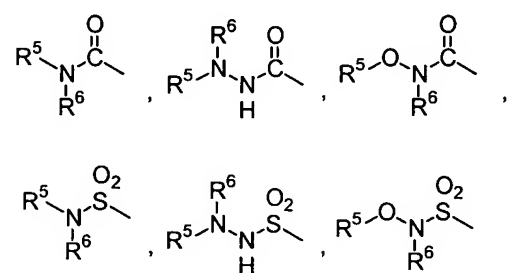
R² and R⁴ may be the same or different from each other, and each is cyano, nitro, hydroxyl, a halogen, an alkyl or an alkoxy; and

R¹³ is (1) hydrogen, (2) an alkyl which may be substituted by group(s) selected from a halogen, hydroxyl, an alkoxy which may be substituted by group(s) selected from a halogen and phenyl, cyano, carboxy, carbamoyl, an alkoxy carbonyl, an amino which may be substituted by phenyl,

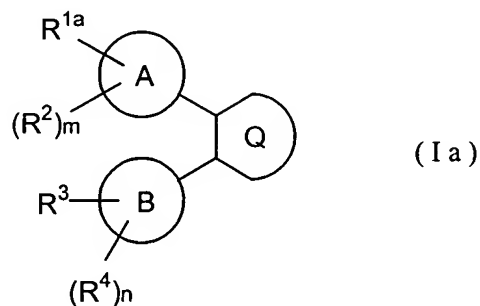
and an imino which may be substituted by group(s) selected from an alkoxy and hydroxyl, (3) an alkenyl or (4) 4,5-dihydroxazol-2-yl.

6. (Currently amended) The large conductance calcium-activated K channel opener according to ~~any one of Claims 1 to 5~~ Claim 1, wherein

R^1 is a group selected from the following formulae:



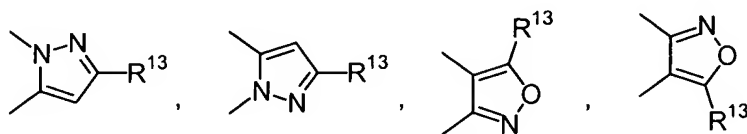
7. (Original) A compound of the formula (Ia):



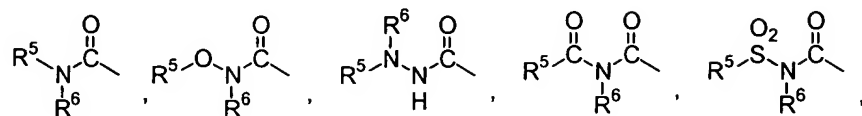
wherein Ring A is benzene or a heterocyclic ring;

Ring B is benzene, a heterocyclic ring, a cycloalkane or a cycloalkene;

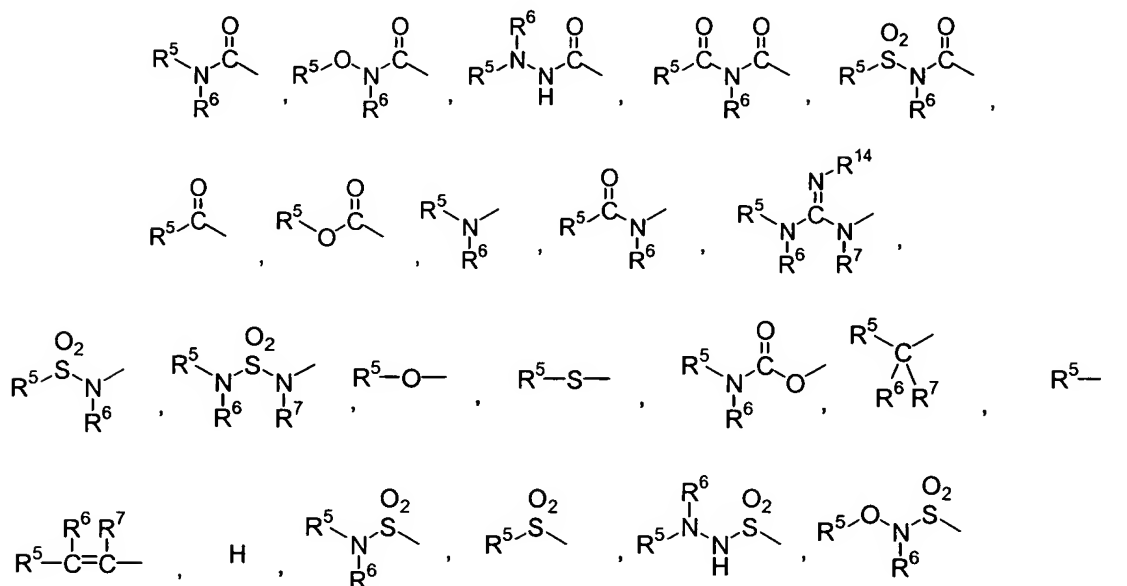
Ring Q is a group selected from the following formulae:



R^{1a} is a group selected from the following formulae:



R^3 is a group selected from the following formulae:



R^5 and R^6 may be the same or different from each other, and each is (1) hydrogen, (2) an optionally substituted alkyl, (3) an optionally substituted cycloalkyl which may be fused with an aryl, (4) an optionally substituted aryl, (5) an optionally substituted heterocyclic group, or (6) an alkoxy carbonyl, or (7) R^5 and R^6 may be combined to form an optionally substituted heterocyclic ring in combination with atom(s) to which they are bonded;

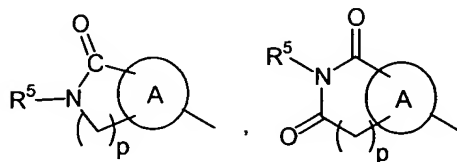
R^7 is (1) hydrogen, (2) an optionally substituted alkyl, (3) an optionally substituted cycloalkyl which may be fused with an aryl, (4) an optionally substituted aryl, or (5) an alkoxy carbonyl;

R^{14} is hydrogen, an alkoxy, hydroxyl, cyano or an optionally substituted alkyl;

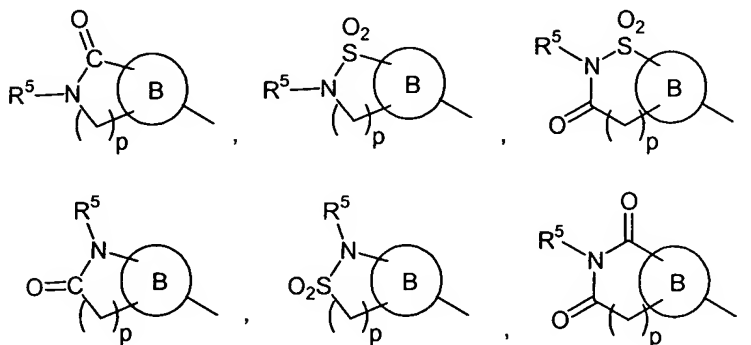
m and n may be the same or different from each other, and each is 0, 1 or 2;

R^2 and R^4 may be the same or different from each other, and each is oxo, cyano, nitro, hydroxyl, an alkoxy, a halogen, carboxy, an alkoxycarbonyl, an optionally substituted carbamoyl, an optionally substituted amino or an optionally substituted alkyl; provided that when m is 2, two R^2 may be the same or different from each other, and when n is 2, two R^4 may be the same or different from each other;

or R^{1a} and R^2 may be combined to form a group of the following formula with Ring A:



or R^3 and R^4 may be combined to form a group selected from the following formulae with Ring B:

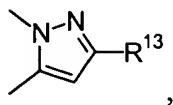


p is an integer of 1 to 3; and

R^{13} is (1) an optionally substituted alkyl, (2) cyano, (3) hydrogen, (4) a halogen, (5) an optionally substituted amino, (6) an alkenyl, (7) an optionally substituted carbamoyl, (8) an alkoxycarbonyl, (9) carboxy, (10) a heterocyclic group, (11) hydroxyl or (12) an alkoxy;

provided that (i) the compound in which Ring A and Ring B are benzenes;

Ring Q is



R^3 is hydroxyl, an alkoxy or a cycloalkyloxy which are substituted at 2-position,

R^4 is methoxy substituted at 6-position, and

R^{13} is an alkoxycarbonyl or carboxy,

(ii) N-(3-isopropoxypropyl)-4-(3-methyl-5-phenyl-1H-pyrazol-1-yl)benzamide,

(iii) 4-(1-(4-aminosulfonylphenyl)-3-difluoromethyl-1H-pyrazol-5-yl)benzamide, and

(iv) 4-[5-(4-chlorophenyl)-3-(3-hydroxypropyl)-1H-pyrazol-1-yl]-N-

methylbenzohydroxamic acid

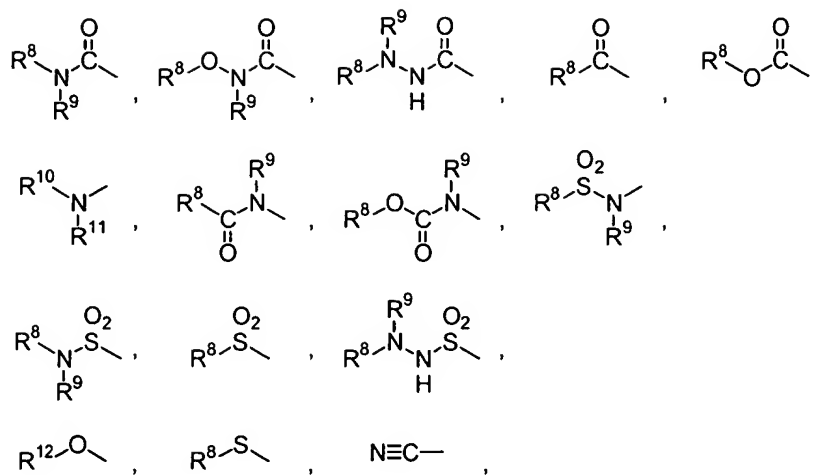
are excluded,

or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.

8. (Original) The compound or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof according to Claim 7,

wherein the substituent(s) for the optionally substituted alkyl of R^5 , R^6 and R^7 are 1 to 7

independently selected halogen(s) and/or 1 to 3 groups selected from the following groups:



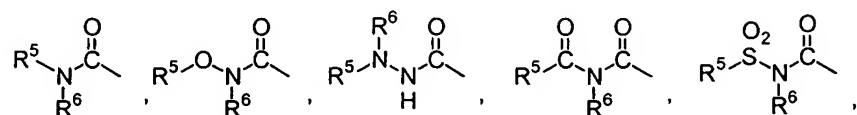
an optionally substituted heterocyclic group and an optionally substituted aryl,

wherein R⁸ and R⁹ may be the same or different from each other, and each is (1) hydrogen, (2) an alkyl which may be substituted by an optionally substituted aryl or by an optionally substituted heterocyclic group, (3) a hydroxyalkyl, (4) an alkoxyalkyl, (5) an alkoxycarbonyl, (6) an optionally substituted heterocyclic group or (7) an optionally substituted aryl, or (8) R⁸ and R⁹ may be combined to form an optionally substituted heterocyclic ring in combination with atom(s) to which they are bonded; R¹⁰ and R¹¹ may be the same or different from each other, and each is (1) hydrogen, (2) an alkyl which may be substituted by an optionally substituted aryl or by an optionally substituted heterocyclic group, (3) a hydroxyalkyl, (4) an alkoxyalkyl, (5) an alkanoyl, (6) an alkylsulfonyl, (7) an alkoxycarbonyl or (8) an optionally substituted heterocyclic group; R¹² is (1) hydrogen, (2) an alkyl which may be substituted by an optionally substituted aryl or by an optionally substituted heterocyclic group, (3) a hydroxyalkyl, (4) an alkoxyalkyl or (5) an optionally substituted heterocyclic group.

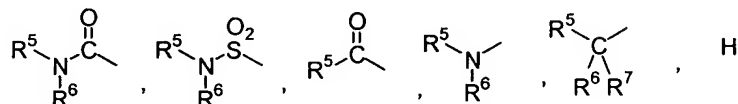
9. (Original) The compound or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof according to Claim 7, wherein

Ring B is benzene, a heterocyclic ring or a cycloalkane;

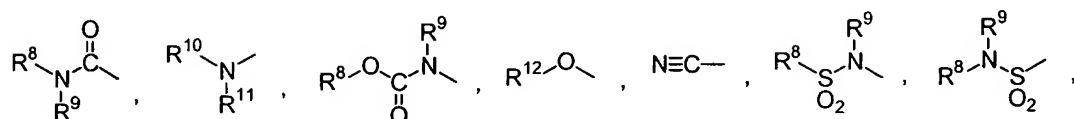
R^{1a} is a group selected from the following formulae:



R³ is a group selected from the following formulae:



R⁵ is (1) hydrogen, (2) an alkyl which may be substituted by 1 to 7 independently selected halogen(s) and/or by 1 to 3 groups selected from the following groups:



an optionally substituted heterocyclic group and an optionally substituted aryl,

(3) an optionally substituted cycloalkyl which may be fused with an aryl, (4) an optionally substituted aryl, or (5) an optionally substituted heterocyclic group;

R⁶ is hydrogen or an alkyl, or R⁵ and R⁶ may be combined to form an optionally substituted heterocyclic ring in combination with atom(s) to which they are bonded;

R⁷ is hydrogen, an alkyl or an alkoxy carbonyl;

R⁸ and R⁹ may be the same or different from each other, and each is (1) hydrogen, (2) an alkyl which may be substituted by an optionally substituted aryl or by an optionally substituted heterocyclic group, (3) a hydroxyalkyl, (4) an alkoxyalkyl, (5) an optionally substituted

heterocyclic group, (6) an optionally substituted aryl, or (7) R^8 and R^9 may be combined to form an optionally substituted heterocyclic ring in combination with atom(s) to which they are bonded;

R^{10} and R^{11} may be the same or different from each other, and each is (1) hydrogen, (2) an alkyl which may be substituted by an optionally substituted aryl or by an optionally substituted heterocyclic group, (3) a hydroxyalkyl, (4) an alkoxyalkyl, (5) an alkanoyl, (6) an alkylsulfonyl, (7) an alkoxycarbonyl or (8) an optionally substituted heterocyclic group;

R^{12} is (1) hydrogen, (2) an alkyl which may be substituted by an optionally substituted aryl or by an optionally substituted heterocyclic group, (3) a hydroxyalkyl, (4) an alkoxyalkyl or (5) an optionally substituted heterocyclic group;

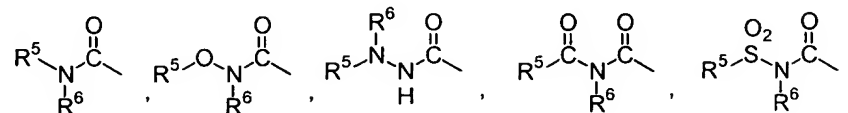
m and n may be the same or different from each other, and each is 0, 1 or 2; and

R^2 and R^4 may be the same or different from each other, and each is oxo, cyano, nitro, hydroxyl, an alkoxy, a halogen or an optionally substituted alkyl.

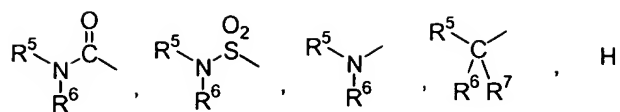
10. (Original) The compound or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof according to Claim 7, wherein

Ring B is (1) benzene or (2) a heterocyclic ring selected from thiophene, pyridine, pyrimidine, pyrazine, benzothiophene, 2,3-dihydroindole, 2,3-dihydrobenzofuran and 1,4-benzodioxane;

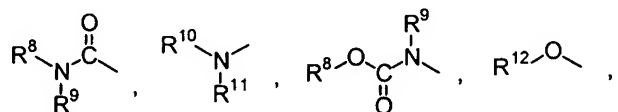
R^{1a} is a group selected from the following formulae:



R^3 is a group selected from the following formulae:



R⁵ is (1) hydrogen, (2) an alkyl which may be substituted by 1 to 7 independently selected halogen(s) and/or by 1 or 2 groups selected from the following groups:



an optionally substituted heterocyclic group and an optionally substituted aryl,

(3) an optionally substituted cycloalkyl which may be fused with an aryl, (4) an optionally substituted aryl, or (5) an optionally substituted heterocyclic group;

R⁶ is hydrogen or an alkyl, or R⁵ and R⁶ may be combined to form a heterocyclic ring which may be substituted by a hydroxyalkyl, in combination with atom(s) to which they are bonded;

R⁷ is hydrogen or an alkyl;

R⁸ and R⁹ may be the same or different from each other, and each is (1) hydrogen, (2) an alkyl which may be substituted by an optionally substituted aryl or by an optionally substituted heterocyclic group, (3) a hydroxyalkyl or (4) an alkoxyalkyl;

R¹⁰ and R¹¹ may be the same or different from each other, and each is (1) hydrogen, (2) an alkyl which may be substituted by an optionally substituted aryl or by an optionally substituted heterocyclic group, (3) a hydroxyalkyl, (4) an alkoxyalkyl or (5) an optionally substituted heterocyclic group;

R¹² is (1) hydrogen, (2) an alkyl which may be substituted by an optionally substituted aryl or by an optionally substituted heterocyclic group, (3) a hydroxyalkyl, (4) an alkoxyalkyl or (5) an optionally substituted heterocyclic group;

m and n may be the same or different from each other, and each is 0, 1 or 2;

R^2 and R^4 may be the same or different from each other, and each is oxo, cyano, nitro, hydroxyl, an alkoxy, a halogen or an alkyl which may be substituted by hydroxyl(s); and

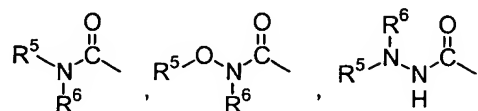
R^{13} is (1) hydrogen, (2) an alkyl which may be substituted by group(s) selected from a halogen, hydroxyl, an optionally substituted alkoxy, cyano, carboxy, an optionally substituted amino and an optionally substituted imino, (3) an alkenyl, or (4) a heterocyclic group.

11. (Original) The compound or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof according to Claim 7, wherein

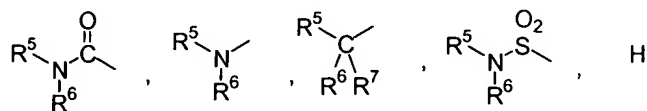
Ring A is benzene, thiophene, pyridine or pyrazole;

Ring B is (1) benzene, or (2) a heterocyclic ring selected from thiophene, pyridine, pyrimidine, pyrazine, benzothiophene and 1,4-benzodioxane;

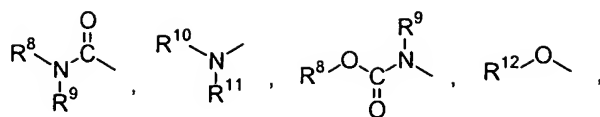
R^{1a} is a group selected from the following formulae:



R^3 is a group selected from the following formulae:



R^5 is (1) hydrogen, (2) an alkyl which may be substituted by 1 to 7 independently selected halogen(s) and/or by 1 or 2 groups selected from the following groups:



an optionally substituted heterocyclic group and an optionally substituted aryl,

(3) a cycloalkyl fused with an aryl which may be substituted by hydroxyl, or (4) a heterocyclic group;

R⁶ is hydrogen or an alkyl, or R⁵ and R⁶ may be combined to form a heterocyclic ring which may be substituted by hydroxyalkyl;

R⁷ is hydrogen or an alkyl;

R⁸, R⁹, R¹⁰ and R¹¹ may be the same or different from each other, and each is (1) hydrogen, (2) an alkyl which may be substituted by an optionally substituted aryl or by an optionally substituted heterocyclic group, (3) a hydroxyalkyl, (4) an alkoxyalkyl, (5) an optionally substituted heterocyclic group, or (6) an optionally substituted aryl;

R¹² is (1) hydrogen, (2) an alkyl which may be substituted by an optionally substituted aryl or by an optionally substituted heterocyclic group, (3) a hydroxyalkyl, (4) an alkoxyalkyl or (5) an optionally substituted heterocyclic group;

m and n may be the same or different from each other, and each is 0, 1 or 2;

R² and R⁴ may be the same or different from each other, and each is cyano, nitro, hydroxyl, a halogen, an alkyl or an alkoxy; and

R¹³ is (1) hydrogen, (2) an alkyl which may be substituted by group(s) selected from a halogen, hydroxyl, an alkoxy which may be substituted by group(s) selected from a halogen and phenyl, cyano, carboxy, carbamoyl, an alkoxycarbonyl, an amino which may be substituted by phenyl, and an imino which may be substituted by group(s) selected from an alkoxy and hydroxyl, (3) an alkenyl or (4) 4,5-dihydroxazol-2-yl.

12. (Currently amended) A medicine comprising the compound or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof according to ~~any one of Claims 7 to 11~~ Claim 7.
13. (Original) The medicine according to Claim 12, which is a large conductance calcium-activated K channel opener.
14. (Currently amended) The large conductance calcium-activated K channel opener according to ~~any one of Claims 1 to 5 and 13~~ Claim 1, which is for the prophylaxis and/or treatment of pollakiuria, urinary incontinence, asthma or chronic obstructive pulmonary diseases.